

particularly the unemployment insurance measures. I shall speak of unemployment insurance in a moment. In dealing with pensions we did not wait for an amendment to the British North America Act. But to make perfectly sure that we would meet a great social need in this country, a need that was being felt very keenly at the time, this Liberal administration undertook to see that old age pensions were established. When it became obvious to us that there was a demand for a higher outlay than the provinces were able to meet, at a subsequent session we increased the amount of the dominion's contribution. This was done in order to make sure that this much needed social legislation would go farther in meeting the needs of those whom we are still trying to help because of the difficulties they are experiencing in an industrial age where people, once they can no longer perform certain services in industry, are thrown out of employment without any further recognition of the services that they have rendered throughout their working lives. Well, that is another measure that grew out of the establishment of the Department of Labour.

I come now to unemployment insurance, and here may I say again that, if there had been no Liberal administration in office at the time, there would have been no unemployment insurance. It was in this connection that the objection was again raised that we had no jurisdiction. But we did not let that stop us. We made every effort we could to secure cooperation from the provinces to get the British North America Act amended to give us the required power to enact the legislation. We succeeded in having the British North America Act amended; we secured the jurisdiction, and to-day we have in existence an unemployment insurance measure very far-reaching indeed in its provisions, which, along with the other enactments I have mentioned, forms a very substantial beginning in social insurance. I am told that the fund already has reached the proportions of \$200,000,000, which will indicate the scope of that measure.

I could refer to other matters. I recall one in particular, because I was a young minister at the time and felt pretty sensitive over some of the attacks that were made by the opposition. It was in connection with an endeavour to have the dominion take some part in the all-important question of research. I brought in a measure providing for the appointment of a royal commission to deal with the question of technical education. The moment the government spoke of that measure we were told that education in all its aspects

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

belonged to the provinces; that we had no business interfering with the provinces; that we were invading their jurisdiction.

Mr. GRAYDON: That is what you said in 1935, too, was it not?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my hon. friend will just be quiet I will deal with him in a few moments, if he wishes.

Mr. GRAYDON: I did not think you would like that interjection, but neither did I think you would make that reply.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I repeat; the objection was raised from the opposite side of the house, as it has been raised to this measure to-night, that we were seeking to invade provincial jurisdiction, and that therefore we should not proceed. Fortunately we did not listen to that argument; we went ahead and appointed our royal commission, which made very important recommendations with respect to assistance the federal government might give the provinces in the development of technical education throughout Canada. That development has expanded and extended from that day to this, and has been of infinite service to this country. That has been so not only in time of peace; its usefulness has been demonstrated time and again during the period of this war. To-night, when we bring in a measure which I firmly believe will result, through further education in the matter of health, in the prevention of disease and improving the health and well-being of the people, again it is said, "Beware! You are going into a field that is sacred to the provinces; you are stirring up political strife," and so forth. My faith is stronger than that. I believe the day will come, though some of us in this room at the moment may not live to see it, when the service that will be rendered to this nation through the establishment of a department of health and welfare, in helping to preserve health and in preventing illness and disease, will be looked upon as one of the greatest contributions ever made by the parliament of Canada to the national life of our country.

I could go on to mention other measures, but I hope I have said enough at least to entitle me to say with conviction that I have faith in the good that will come from what this government is doing at the present time. I resent very strongly the attitude of some hon. gentlemen in attacking a measure of this kind and in alleging that it lacks sincerity, that it is a paper gesture. I could excuse the hon. member who made that statement because he is new to this house, but I might say to him